

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated February 23, 2006. In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 8-11 and 13-20 were rejected. Claim 6 was objected to but indicated as being of allowable subject matter. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. With this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 9, 13 and 20 are amended, claims 5-7, 12 and 6 and 19 are canceled and claims 21-22 are new. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims 1-4, 8-11, 13-15, 17-18 and 20-22 are in condition for allowance.

I. Interview Summary

Applicant's attorney would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during telephone interviews on May 22, 2006. During these interviews, the Examiner determined that the advisory action dated May 9, 2006 was at least partially inaccurate. The advisory action states that amendments made to claims 1 and 13 raise new issues. However, after discussion, the advisory action should have stated that claim 13 raises new issues and that if the amendment to claim 1 was entered, claims 1-4 and 8-11 would be considerable allowable.

II. Claim Amendments

Claims 1-5, 9-11 and 13-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Munninghoff et al. (U.S. 6,600,625). In addition, claims 1-5, 8-11 and 13-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Severson (U.S. 6,549,365). In accordance with the telephone interviews with the Examiner on May 22, 2006, independent claim 1 has been amended to include features of claim 6 (and therefore also claim 5), which is considered to be of allowable subject matter. Claim 13 has been amended to include features dependently claimed in claim 6, which is considered to be of allowable subject matter and dependently claimed in claim 16. Accordingly, claims 5, 6 and 16 have been canceled. Dependent claims 7 and 12 and independent claim 19 has also been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 13 are allowable over the cited references and therefore claims 2-4, 8-11, 14-17 and 18, which depend

on allowable base claims 1 and 13, are also in condition for allowance.

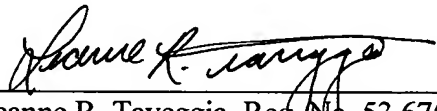
Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Munninghoff et al. or Severson. In addition, claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs. Claim 20 has been amended to eliminate the language "non-continuous". It is respectfully submitted that claim 20 is in condition for allowance as being definite as well as in condition for allowance over the cited references. Claim 20 depends from allowable independent claim 13 and the cited reference fails to teach or suggest a circular inner circumference and a circular outer circumference.

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims 1-4, 8-15, 17-18 and 20 are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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